

Dear Peter,

Like you said, when you know there's no answer and that words are something people say, I'm at a loss as to what to say in regards to the news of your cancer. I'm shaky as I type this and I can only express that it hurts to see a good and meaningful soul such as you having to deal with this. I've seen it so much with people our age in the last few years and each time it's a terrible blow; the price of having lived so long, I guess. Just last October, my friend Gord Downie died; brain cancer. Damn. He was only 53. Listening to his songs is a little bitter sweet, yet there is a triumph factor to because they are there and I can hear his voice and thoughts. My brother recently came east to visit and we spent the day in Millburn with his wife and Linda. We walked around the old neighborhood and noted the changes to the houses, the trees no longer there... We noted that your house, like ours, now had a deck. They're all the rage. Most of the yards were fenced in, too. We talked about how we used to feel free to roam about the neighborhood. I, myself, faced death once, eleven years ago. I'm not supposed to be here, except I am. Some of the great folks at Mt.Sinai Hospital call me a "medical miracle". Perhaps I am. I wouldn't want to besmirch their skill and efforts in saving my life. Linda just says I'm too ornery to die. I just think it wasn't my time. I decided to enjoy whatever time I have left. It's all a gift. You don't have to respond, or at least spend much precious time doing it. Just please let me know you received this. I'd rather you spend your time with your close friends and family, and, doing the things you love, like writing songs or anything else such a fine writer needs to write. I can't make you show on the 30th but I will be thinking of you every day. I still see you in my mind's eye, complete with that glorious blonde mop of curls as you walked about town; small, barely functioning minds not knowing what to make of it. Just so you know, if you didn't already: Your talents have made a positive difference.

Love, Bruce